SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) Mr Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the Reserve Bank and all its branches increased the rate of interest from July 1 on loans already given to the people without giving any prior intimation to them (*Interruptions*) The consumers, traders or the establishments which had taken loans were not given any prior intimation in this regard Sir, I would like to submit to you that the rate of interest at several places has been increased from 17 per cent to 25 per cent due to which many business establishments are in difficulty, their business will come to a stand still I think price-rise will certainly have an effect on it Thus in case the rate of interest is 2 per cent then the money lenders would definitely charge 4 per cent interest Therefore my submission to the Finance Minister is that he should follow the Election Manifesto of the Congress where in an assurance had been given that there would be no price rise The Reserve Bank of India should also be directed to review the matter and reduce the rate of interest

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER Shri Chitta Basu

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) I do not like to mention anything today I will speak on matters under rule 377

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) I have a very serious matter to communicate to the House I have information that a producer of TV Serials was called and given a proposal by the Director General of Doordarshan to make a programme on the Budget

Then, subsequently when he was about to produce this programme, he was called and told that he would have to select his interviews from a list of economists who are supposed to come from the very top and he was also specifically told that he should not include those economists in the programme who were critical of the Government's economic policy

If this is true then it is a very serious matter On the one hand, the Government is talking of autonomy of the Doordarshan and on the other hand the Government is trying to suppress the freedom of expression of people who are critical of its policies

I want a statement from the Government on this I want to know whether this has really happened and whether the said programme is still on or whether it has been rejected

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE This is a very serious charge against the Government The Government must come forward and make a statement on this point This comes after the circulation of non-official economic note through the Parliament baggage We have to be beware of this kind of thing being done by the Government

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) Will you please ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to find out enquire and report on this to the House?

MR SPEAKER It is not like this

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER You do not direct me to direct please

SHRI AMAL DATTA We are requesting to you We are submitting to you You have a duty to this House also (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You have made the point

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER You are taking others' time Other Members also have something to say I have allowed to make this point You have made that point Other Members also do have some points to make Please allow them to make